



ASMFC

# FISHERIES *focus*

Volume 10, Issue 2

March 2001

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission • 1444 Eye Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C.

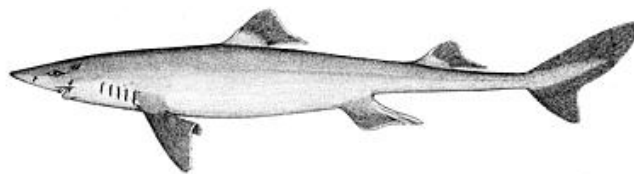
## **ASMFC Moves Forward on Spiny Dogfish FMP MA, RI & VA to Hold Public Meetings on PID**

In January, the Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Shark Management Board approved a Public Information Document (PID) for the development of a Commission Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Spiny Dogfish. The PID covers three primary options for managing spiny dogfish in state waters and addresses a number of other topics that could eventually be a part of the Commission's FMP. The Board chose to fast track the development of the Spiny Dogfish PID in order to develop a management strategy for the states to implement when the fishery reopens in federal waters on May 1.

Spiny dogfish are currently managed under a joint FMP between the New England and Mid-Atlantic Councils. The federal FMP is based on a constant fishing mortality strategy ( $F = 0.03$ ) which translates into low landings in the early stages of implementation with larger landings as the stock recovers. Fishermen and processors have stated that with the low trip limits that were in place last season, it would not be profitable for fishermen to land spiny dogfish and the processors would go out of business long before the stock recovers.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in recognizing this situation, acted independently to provide for a small-scale directed fishery of spiny dogfish based on a technical analysis that indicated a constant harvest strategy of 4,000 metric tons (8.8 million pounds) could accomplish the same rebuilding as the

strategy in the federal FMP. The 2000 Massachusetts fishery was then set at seven million pounds with a trip limit of 7,000 pounds. In contrast, the federal plan specified trip limits for federally-permitted fishermen at 600 and 300 pounds for May 1 to October 31, 2000 and November 1, 2000 to April 30, 2001, respectively. The strategy implemented by Massachusetts enabled non-federally permitted fishermen to land and sell spiny dogfish but disadvantaged others. The result of this was



that the entire annual coastwide quota was taken prior to the end of the first semiannual quota period. Therefore, in some states, federally permitted fishermen were prohibited from landing spiny dogfish before they even had the opportunity to fish.

On August 21, acting out of concern for the resource, the Board took emergency action to close state waters to the commercial harvest, landing and possession of spiny dogfish in state waters when the federal waters were closed due to the fishery attaining its quota or TAL (total allowable landings). The intent of the emergency action was to: (1) prevent the overharvest of spiny dogfish, thereby, reducing the risk for a potential stock collapse; (2) prevent an unregulated portion of the spiny dogfish

fishery from undermining the intent of the federal FMP; and (3) provide time for the Commission to develop an interstate spiny dogfish FMP which would provide a framework for managing state waters fisheries for spiny dogfish.

The Spiny Dogfish PID contains three primary options for Commission action: (1) extending the current emergency action; (2) adopting the federal regulations; and (3) implementing measures based on the "constant harvest strategy".

Extending the emergency action would close state waters fisheries for spiny dogfish when the federal quota has been attained. The Board could extend this action up to April 2002 while it continued developing a FMP. Adopting the federal regulations would assume that the Board/Commission endorses the federal FMP and its basic management philosophy of having no directed fishery for spiny dogfish. All fishermen would be bound by the specifications set each year through the Council's process. The final option would implement a coastwide quota of 4,000 metric tons based on the constant harvest strategy. If this option is chosen the Board would have to determine how the coastwide quota would be allocated in order to be equitable for all fishermen. Various options or strategies relating to quota allocation, fishing seasons, quota overages/underages, trip and size limits, and provisions for quota transfers are included in the PID.

*continued on page 6*

**T**he Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission was formed by the 15 Atlantic coastal states in 1942 for the promotion and protection of coastal fishery resources. The Commission serves as a deliberative body of the Atlantic coastal states, coordinating the conservation and management of nearshore fishery resources, including marine, shell and anadromous species. The fifteen member states of the Commission are: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

*Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission*

Susan Shipman (GA), Chair  
 John I. Nelson (NH), Vice-Chair  
 John H. Dunnigan, Executive Director  
 Dieter N. Busch, Director, Interstate Fisheries Management Program  
 Dr. Lisa L. Kline, Director of Research & Statistics  
 Laura C. Leach, Director of Finance & Administration

Tina L. Berger, Editor  
 tberger@asmfc.org

(202)289-6400 Phone • (202)289-6051 Fax  
 www.asmfc.org

## Upcoming Meetings

### 3/27 & 28:

ACCSP Advisory Committee, Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore, 2225 North Lois Avenue, Tampa, Florida; (813)877-6688.

### 4/1 - 4:

First North American Fisheries Economics Forum, Pontchartrain Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana; <http://www.naafu.uaa.alaska.edu/forum.htm>

### 4/2 (4:00 PM - 8:00 PM):

American Lobster Advisory Panel, Providence, Rhode Island.

### 4/3 (6:00 PM):

ASMFC Joint Spiny Dogfish and American Lobster Public Meeting, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Foundry Building, Third Floor, 235 Promenade Street, Providence, Rhode Island. For more information, please contact Mark Gibson (401)789-3094 or Brian Murphy (401) 782-4713.

### 4/4 (6:00 PM):

ASMFC American Lobster Public Meeting, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, 101 Academy Drive, Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts. For more information, please contact Jim Fair at (617) 626-1534.

### 4/11 & 12:

ASMFC Red Drum Technical Committee, Georgia Coastal Resources Division, One Conservation Way, Suite 300, Brunswick, Georgia.

### 4/23 - 26:

ASMFC Meeting Week, Quality Hotel & Conference Center, 1200 North Courthouse Road, Arlington, Virginia; (703)524-4000 (see pages 5 & 6 for preliminary agenda).

### 4/22 - 25:

57th Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference, Sheraton Saratoga Springs, Saratoga Springs, New York. For more information, please contact Art Newell at [ajnewell@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:ajnewell@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

### 5/2 & 3:

New England Fishery Management Council, Holiday Inn, Peabody, Massachusetts.

### 5/8 - 10:

Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Carousel Hotel, 118th Street, Ocean City, Maryland; (410)524-1000.

Here in Washington, the new Administration is struggling to grapple with all of the issues affecting the republic, and to carry forward the major initiatives of our new President. For the moment, there are not many new nominees for senior political positions in executive agencies, including the Department of Commerce, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). There are, however, some interesting policy outlines for the new Administration that will guide how the federal government approaches its role in marine fisheries. Most notable among these, for the present discussion at least, is an apparent reemphasis on the role of the states in carrying out national objectives. State marine fisheries agencies have, for a long time, had a special relationship with their federal counterparts; sharing public trust responsibilities to safeguard the Nation's valuable marine fishery resources. Over the years, that special relationship has had its good days, and some less desirable days; but on the whole has been one of the core values that have enabled the states and the federal government to move forward in many areas. We should all hope that the new Administration would not only highly value this relationship, but try to find ways to strengthen, enhance and expand it.

In this light, it is time that we all enter into a serious reexamination of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986. In the Atlantic area, we have the more specific Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act, which was reauthorized last year. But across the country, the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act is still the foundation for the partnership among state and federal marine fisheries agencies. It has been 15 years since the Congress undertook a thorough and fundamental reexamination of the nature of the state-federal partnership and the commitments that are necessary to support it. The world is changing all around us – how have these changes affected our cooperative relationship with the national government, and how should we proceed forward together in the future?

The history of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act is not insignificant. For many years the states encouraged the Congress to invest in state fisheries programs to complement and support federal activities. The ASMFC can be proud that it took the lead almost 40 years ago, thanks to the energy and tenacity of Captain David H. Hart who led the charge. Congress finally passed P.L.

88-309, the Commercial Fisheries Research and Development Act. For more than 20 years, funding under P.L. 88-309 supported research, development and management programs in the states that contributed greatly to articulating and carrying out the public's interest in marine fisheries. In 1986, Congress recognized the need to refocus the program due to the increasing interdependence of the states in their marine fisheries. P.L. 88-309 was replaced by the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act, which recognized important changes in the fisheries world of that time. It broadened the scope of issues to be addressed under the law, and focused more attention on cooperative management of shared marine fishery resources.

The challenges faced by state and federal fishery managers have changed greatly in the past 15 years. We have explored the range of cooperation that is implicit in effective cooperative fishery conservation programs, and found that the need for state-federal cooperation has never been greater. All coastal states are now engaged in cooperative statistics programs, in an effort to solve the most intractable and long-standing need in the decision-making infrastructure: supporting fisheries conservation and management. The Sustainable Fisheries Act recognized the need to move forward with new and creative initiatives to secure the information base that fishery managers and the fisheries constituencies need. In the area of enforcement, Congress last year made a major new investment of \$15 million in cooperative law enforcement programs with the states. Our fisheries management programs along the Atlantic coast have underscored the need for the states and the federal government to work together — from our major success stories such as Atlantic striped bass to our current challenge areas such as summer flounder and American lobster. These are all evidence of the change that is occurring in the world of marine fisheries policy, a change that today is dynamic and complex as ever. And we, the state and federal fisheries agencies, can either work together to anticipate the forces of change and shape them, or be overcome by those forces and be shaped by them.

A new approach to state-federal cooperation must focus on the major categories of fisheries programs,

*continued on page 4*

## From the Executive Director's Desk (continued from page 3)

recognize the relative strengths of state and federal agency partners, and capitalize on those relative strengths. A commitment to carrying out a comprehensive, national approach to fishery resource information would be an important part of any legislative initiative. NMFS, working with the states, generated a plan for a national fishery information system in response to the Sustainable Fisheries Act almost two years ago. Now is the time to move forward to a commitment to carry out this plan. Similar initiatives should be addressed for other marine fisheries program areas, including research, habitat, enforcement and management. And we must recognize that a one-size-fits-all, cookie-cutter approach simply will not work. Regional variations will be a key to a successful program.

These kinds of creative, mutual approaches to problems have been the dominant characteristic of the best days of state-federal cooperation throughout the years. We have a chance now to set the tone and reinvigorate the state-federal partnership for the next decade. With all of the difficult and controversial fisheries issues facing Congress, this could be a positive and assertive way to set a tone for fisheries policy this year. We should all be willing to move forward now with a reexamination of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act and re energizing the state-federal partnership in marine fisheries.

## States to Close Winter Period Fisheries for Scup and Black Sea Bass in Early March

On February 27, 2001, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission announces that the states from Massachusetts through North Carolina will be closing their waters to the commercial harvest and possession of scup and black sea bass effective March 1 and March 7, 2001, respectively. The National Marine Fisheries Service will take like actions with respect federal permit holders fishing for scup and black sea bass in the exclusive economic zone.

These actions are based on analysis of current landings data which project 100 percent of the winter period quotas for the two species will be fully utilized by early March. As of February 17, 2001,

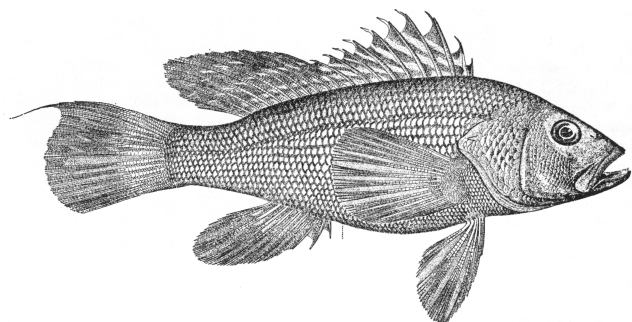
1,537,919 pounds of scup have been commercially harvested out of a total Winter I period quota of 1,666,570 pounds, while 906,852 pounds of black sea bass have been commercially harvested from a total Quarter I period quota of 1,168,760.

Both fisheries will be reopened at the beginning of their new quota seasons, which begin on May 1, 2001 for the Scup Summer Period and April 1, 2001 for the Black Sea Bass Quarter 2 Period. The total state quotas for those periods are 1,680,847 and 683,906, respectively.

Both scup and black sea bass are jointly managed by the Commission and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. The commercial scup fishery is managed through a quota that is divided among three periods – Winter I (January – April), Summer (May – October), and Winter II (November – December). The commercial black sea

bass fishery is also managed through a quota that is divided among four periods – Quarter I (January – March), Quarter II (April – June), Quarter III (July – September), and Quarter IV (October – December). Landings for both species are monitored weekly to ensure the timely closure of the fisheries once the quota for each period is landed. Both the Commission and the Council plans set out a series of trip limits that are designed to extend the species' quota throughout the entire quota period, thereby, maximizing the benefits of the available quota.

For more information, please contact Robert Beal, Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator, at (202)289-6400.





# **ASMFC Spring Meeting Week April 23 - 26, 2001**

**Quality Hotel & Conference Center  
1200 North Courthouse Road  
Arlington, Virginia  
(703)524-4000**

## **Preliminary Agenda**

### Monday, April 23, 2001

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Legislative Committee

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Committee on Economics and Social Sciences

- Evaluation of the first five years of the CESS - integrating socioeconomics into fishery management plans
- Commercial Harvesters Subcommittee: progress and current issues regarding the socioeconomic pilot study
- Fishing Communities Subcommittee: defining fishing communities and progress towards an ACCSP module

10:00 AM - Noon

Spiny Dogfish and Coastal Shark Management Board

- Update on Council actions
- Review public comments on Dogfish PID
- Recommendations to states for interim dogfish management

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Meetings Management Workshop

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Law Enforcement Committee

### Tuesday, April 24, 2001

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Atlantic Menhaden Management Board

- Review/approve draft Amendment 1
- Discuss formation of technical committee and advisory panel

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Management and Science Committee

- Modification to the Commission's Peer Review Process
- Update on Power Plant Activities
- Update on Aquaculture Activities
- Review of Regulatory Discards Workshop Recommendations
- Discussion of Aging Workshops

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Law Enforcement Committee (continued)

9:00 AM - Noon

Sea Turtle Workshop

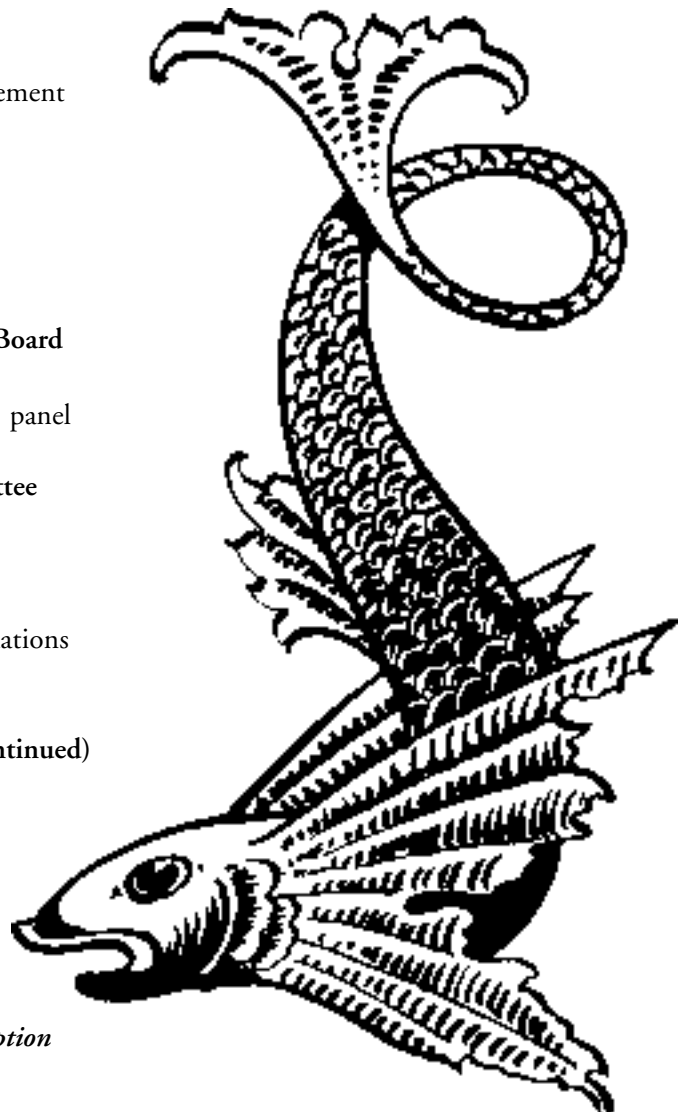
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM.

Striped Bass Management Board

- Discuss biological reference points for Amendment 6
- Discuss timeline for development of Amendment 6

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

*Annual Awards of Excellence Reception*



*continued on page 6*

## **ASMFC Spring Meeting Week Preliminary Agenda (continued from page 5)**

### Wednesday, April 25, 2001

- 7:30 AM – 9:00 AM                      Legislators and Governors' Appointees
- 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM                      Technical Workshop
- 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM                      American Lobster Management Board
- Discuss public comments pertaining to Amendment 4 PID
  - Review Technical Committee work regarding alternative reference points
- 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM                      Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program Board
- Update on previous work
  - Discussion of Operations Committee Tasks (MOU, Trawl Survey)
- 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM                      South Atlantic State-Federal Fisheries Management Board
- Red drum Technical Committee Report (evaluation of red drum management options)
  - Preliminary report on croaker assessment)
  - Review/approve red drum PID
  - SEAMAP update
- 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM                      ACCSP Coordinating Council

### Thursday, April 26, 2001

- 7:30 AM – 10:30 AM                      ISFMP Policy Board
- Atlantic Menhaden Board recommendation to approve Amendment 1
  - Presentation by Habitat Committee for approval – Project Review Protocol
  - Presentation by Habitat Committee for discussion – SAV and Gear Impacts: next steps
  - Reports from the Management and Science Committee, Committee on Economics and Social Sciences, Habitat Committee and Law Enforcement Committee
  - Discussion of survey results to try to limit regulatory changes to a few specific times of the year
- 10:30 AM - Noon                          Executive Committee/Commission
- 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM                      Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board
- Discuss decision document for payback of recreational overages
  - Discuss timeliness of state fishery closures and trip limit changes
  - discuss future black sea bass management
- 

## **ASMFC Moves Forward on Spiny Dogfish FMP (continued from page 1)**

Public hearings will be scheduled in a number of states and a press release announcing the schedule will be distributed by the Commission (see Upcomings Meetings on page 2). The public comment period will close on April 10, 2001 and the Board will meet during the Commission's Spring Meeting the week of April 23rd to review the comments.

Copies of the Spiny Dogfish PID can be obtained by contacting Vanessa Jones, Administrative Assistant, at (202) 289-6400, or via the Commission's website at [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org) under the Public Input page. For more information, please contact Dr. Joseph C. Desfosse, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at (202) 289-6400.

## Regulatory Discards Workshop

Regulatory discards are those animals that are discarded because of regulatory restrictions, such as size limits or possession limits. As the number of species under fisheries management increases and fishing regulations become stricter, more and more animals are required to be thrown back. To address this issue, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, in conjunction with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), conducted a workshop to look at potential methods to reduce the occurrence of regulatory discards. The goal of this workshop was to "identify and discuss potential methods to reduce the amount of regulatory discards taken and/or increase the utilization of the discards taken."

The workshop was held on February 6 & 7, 2001 in Baltimore, Maryland. More than 40 participants attended the workshop, representing state, federal, and industry interests. The majority of the participants were from the Atlantic coast, but several participants were invited from the Gulf and Pacific coasts and Canada to increase perspective.

A series of presentations gave participants perspective into various sectors of fishery management and several current management strategies being used in the U.S. and Canada. Topics that were covered include:

- gear technology
- data collection
- law enforcement
- recreational fisheries
- prohibited and protected species
- management strategies

Participants were then divided into four groups to discuss these issues, in terms of how each of the issues contributes to discarding. Each group then developed recommendations on how to reduce discards relative to these issues. Recommendations are not species specific, but are relevant to most fisheries on the Atlantic coast. In general, recommendations suggested better integration of law enforcement concerns when developing regulations, better data collection, reducing over capitalization in fisheries, and increased involvement of industry in research, data collection, and the management process. A workshop report is being drafted and will be available by summer 2001. Additional funding has been obtained from the NMFS and USFWS to do address some of the workshop recommendations during 2001.

For more information, please contact Jeffrey Brust, Fisheries Research Specialist, at (202) 289-6400.

## Artificial Reef Technical Committee Meets

In mid-February, the Commission's Artificial Reef Technical Committee (ARTC) met to discuss a number of issues including current artificial reef program activities and issues, as well as its plans to work more closely with the Commission's Habitat Committee.

This latter item marks a significant change for the ARTC, and is one that is welcomed by both the ARTC and the Habitat Committee. According to Henry Ansley, current Chair of the ARTC, "The Artificial Reef Committee looks forward to working with the Habitat Committee in continuing to develop responsible and effective uses for man-made reef technology to benefit fisheries and habitat management."

At its last meeting, the ARTC also met jointly with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's (GSMFC) Artificial Reef Committee to discuss shared issues, as well as attend and participate in an Artificial Reef Evaluation Workshop, sponsored by the Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society (AFS). A major discussion topic for the two Committees was a 1997 publication of the GSMFC entitled, "Guidelines for Marine Artificial Reef Materials." This publication outlines different materials which have been used for artificial reefs, detailing both the benefits and drawbacks of each material. The two Committees discussed the need for an updated document and decided to make it a joint project with members of both Committee's revising and adding the various sections. The Committees also received an update from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding the status of the National Artificial Reef Plan. The basis of this plan is the Commissions' joint "Coastal Artificial Reef Planning Guide" published in 1998. NMFS indicated that the National Plan will be available for public review this spring.

The Committees spent the remainder of their joint meeting AFS Artificial Reef Evaluation Workshop. This workshop was based on a book edited by Bill Seaman, "Artificial Reef Evaluation, with Application to Natural Marine Habitats." The authors of the various chapters presented topics such as Study Design, Engineering, Fish Evaluation Methods and Economic Evaluation Methods.

Over the next year, the Committee will be spending time updating the Materials Guidelines, exploring the use of special management zones for artificial reefs, and discussing the durability of materials needed for artificial reefs.

For more information, please contact Carrie Selberg, Habitat Specialist, at (202)289-6400.

# States to Schedule Public Meetings for American Lobster Amendment 4 PID; LCMTs Meet to Address Revised Egg Rebuilding Schedules

## Amendment 4 PID

Throughout March and early April, the states of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, and Maryland will be holding public meetings to gather comment on the recently released Public Information Document (PID) for Amendment 4 to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for American Lobster. Specific details of the meetings will be released once they become available (see page 2 under Upcoming Meetings for scheduled MA and RI meetings).

The PID, which was approved by the American Lobster Management Board in early February, addresses options for the use of conservation equivalency for the non-trap gear limits and v-notch possession restrictions of Amendment 3.

The concept of conservation equivalency is not a new one to the Commission and has been used in many of its fishery management plans. It provides states with the flexibility to adopt alternative management approaches, given that these approaches have been found to be conservationally similar to the required management measures. In the case of lobster management, alternative management measures will be required to meet the revised egg rebuilding schedule contained in Addendum II.

Copies of the PID can be obtained by contacting either Vanessa Jones, Administrative Assistant, at (202) 289-6400, or via the Commission's web site under "Public Input" at [www.asmfc.org](http://www.asmfc.org). Public comment will be accepted until April 22, 2001, and should be forwarded to Heather Stirratt, American Lobster Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, at 1444 Eye Street, N.W., Sixth Floor, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 289-6051 (fax).

## LCMT Updates

Addendum II requires that each Lobster Conservation Management Team (LCMT) review the revised egg rebuilding schedule, the previous LCMT recommendation, and the area management program, if any, and submit to the Management Board alternative measures for its management program focusing on egg rebuilding to achieve stock rebuilding targets beginning June 1, 2001. Many of the LCMTs have already initiated discussions on this topic. The following are highlights from recent meetings:

### Area 1

The most recent meeting for Area 1 LCMT was held on January 8, 2001. During this meeting updates were provided on Commission management and Technical Committee work. The LCMT discussed at length the need to develop a management program to achieve the revised egg rebuilding schedule by June of this year. Area 1 began by listing all additional conservation measures taken by the industry including, but not limited to, 5 inch maximum carapace length, limited entry, and zero tolerance v-notch protection. The next Area 1 LCMT meeting has been scheduled for March 13, 2001 at the Eastland Park Hotel at 10:00 AM.

### Area 2

The LCMT for Area 2 met on two separate occasions this past January. The first meeting which was held on January 9, 2001, included an update on Commission management and Technical Committee work. Other topics that were raised during this forum were issues pertaining to the continued increase in Maine landings, effort analyses, and shell disease. Concerns were expressed by Area 2 LCMT members on all three issues. The Area 2 LCMT also convened on January 30, 2001. The primary fo-



*Photo courtesy of Amy Schick*

cus during this meeting was to discuss the Rhode Island Lobstermen's Association's draft management program proposal, which employs an economic approach to reduce trap numbers in Area 2 to 1999 levels. The LCMT agreed that additional time and discussion is required on this proposal before any recommendation can be offered.

### Areas 3, 4, 5, and the Outer Cape

These areas have not held meetings since January 1 of this year, but are anticipated to meet shortly. Area 3 LCMT will be meeting on March 23, 2001 at 9:30 AM at the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, 50 Portside Drive, Suite A, Pocasset, Massachusetts. For additional information about forthcoming meetings in these areas please contact the following individuals.

Areas 3 and Outer Cape - Jim Fair (617) 626-1534

Areas 4 and 5 - Bruce Freeman (609) 292-2083

### Area 6

The Area 6 LCMT is scheduled to meet on March 12, 2001 at 9:30 AM at the New York Department of Environmental Conservation, Marine Resources Division, 205 Belle Meade Road, East Setauket, New York. The purpose of this meeting is to review the Area 6 LCMT lobster management plan in light of the new egg production rebuilding targets provided in Addendum II and begin preparing the updated Area 6 plan. For more information, please contact Heather Stirratt at (202) 289-6400, ext. 301, or [hstirratt@asmfc.org](mailto:hstirratt@asmfc.org).

# ASMFC Comings & Goings

## Staff

**Lori Goodwin** - For over five years, Lori Goodwin worked diligently with the Commission's Legislators and Governors' Appointees (LGAs) to ensure that their concerns and issues of importance were brought to the forefront of Commission business. Over that time, she and the LGAs saw that group of Commissioners move from limited participation to heightened, if not equal, responsibility within all Commission programs, most particularly the Interstate Fisheries Management Program. She also put in long hours with the Commission's Legislative Committee, helping to make sure that the interests and needs of the 17 Atlantic coastal states and jurisdictions were adequately communicated to Congress during its deliberations of important fisheries and marine resource/habitat related pieces of legislation. That same diligence and hard work will now be focused on Lori's family, most specifically, the raising of her 8-month old son, Christopher. We wish Lori the very best and know that wherever she chooses to direct her energies, she will be a success.

**Garry Laguerre** - Since February 1999, Garry served as the Commission's Accountant. March 2, 2001 marked Garry's last day working with the Commission. He has moved on to work as Senior Accountant for a nonprofit organization in D.C. Congratulations and good luck in your new job, Garry!

**Laura Lee** - In January 2001, Laura Lee joined the Commission staff as its new Stock Assessment Biologist, filling in where Matt Mitro left off. Like Matt, Laura is stationed at the Coastal Fisheries Laboratory of the Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife in Wakefield, Rhode Island. Over the next year, she will be focusing on stock assessment analyses for American eel, scup, winter flounder and tautog. Laura is currently also completing her masters thesis on "Population dynamics of Atlantic croaker occurring along the U.S. East Coast, 1981 - 1998." Once completed, she will receive a M.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology from North Carolina State University; she already has a B.S. in Oceanography from Millersville University in Pennsylvania. Welcome, Laura!

**Michael Lewis** - Mike is the most recent addition to the Commission staff, and he join us as a Fisheries Management Plan Coordinator. Initially, Mike will take over the coordination responsibilities for shad and river herring, and weakfish, taking on more species as time goes on. In his previous position, Mike was a Project Manager with Comprehensive Building Analysis, where he helped conduct phase I environmental site assessments. Mike received his Masters in Environmental Management from Duke University and his Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Randolph Macon College in Ashland, Virginia. His masters thesis was entitled, "Development of Management Policy in Georgia's Blue Crab Fishery." Welcome aboard, Mike!

## Commissioners

**Dennis Abbott** - From 1997 through 2000, Dennis Abbott served as New Hampshire's Legislative Commissioner to the ASMFC. One of the more active legislators to join the Commission, Dennis played an active role on the Legislators and Governors' Appointee Committee, as well as several species management boards including northern shrimp, American lobster, Atlantic herring, Atlantic menhaden and striped bass.

Over his six-year tenure in the New Hampshire's House of Representatives, Dennis served on the Wildlife and Marine Resources Committee (six years), the Finance Subcommittee (two years), and the Public Water Access Advisory Committee (first term). He was also the ranking democrat for two years and the prime sponsor of two important resource management bills, which separately implemented a Wildlife Habitat Program and a Fisheries Habitat Program. Lucky for us, Dennis will still remain involved in the Commission's programs as Representative Maryann Blanchard's ongoing proxy.

**Representative Maryann Blanchard** - In December 2000, Representative Blanchard replaced Dennis Abbott as New Hampshire's Legislative Commissioner to the ASMFC. She has served for seven terms in New Hampshire's House of Representatives and been a member of the Democratic Leadership and the Finance Committee. Her areas of greatest priority are natural resource management and protection, public safety and law enforcement. All of us at the Commission welcome Maryann and look forward to benefiting from her participation in the Commission.

**Senator Jill Goldthwait** - It is difficult to briefly describe all that Senator Goldthwait has done for the Commission and Atlantic coastal fisheries management. As Chair of the ASMFC Legislators and the Northern Shrimp Section, and active member of the Commission's Administrative Oversight Committee, Jill has made significant and lasting contributions to the way the Commission does business, both operationally and in the management arena. Her mark is everywhere -- in how we advertise and run our meetings, in the increased participation of Legislators and Governors' Appointees in all Commission programs, and in our commitment to be truly accountable and responsive to the public, our diverse constituencies, and ourselves.

After six years of active and outspoken involvement in the Commission, Jill has had to step away and focus her tremendous energies toward her home state of Maine, where she assumes the position of Chair of the Legislature's Appropriations Committee. A job of enormous responsibility and one we know that Jill can fully meet. Congratulations Jill on your new appointment and many, many thanks for all you have done for us. You will be missed.

*continued on page 10*

## **Rep. Tony Verga Receives David L. Belding Award**

In January, Massachusetts state representative and ASMFC Legislative Commissioner, Tony Verga was awarded the David L. Belding Award from the Massachusetts State Fisheries Commission. He received the award in recognition for significant contributions to the conservation and wise use of the bounty from Massachusetts' coastal waters.



Others nominated for this prestigious award were Tom Hill, New England Fishery Management Council (Council) Chair; Phil Haring, former Council staffer and former Chair of the Groundfish Plan Development Team; and Chatham fisherman and active member of the Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance, Mark Simonitsch.

Tony has been an active player in New England fisheries management issues for many years -- first as a commercial fisherman, and later on as the Executive Director of the Gloucester Fisheries Commission. He has also been a member and Vice-chair of the Council, as well as the New England Fisheries Development Foundation. From the Commission's perspective, Tony was actively involved as Massachusetts' Governor's Appointee to the Commission from 1989 - 1996 and currently serves as the Commonwealth's Legislative Representative.

On behalf of the Commission staff and state members, congratulations, Tony!

## **ASMFC Comings & Goings (continued from page 9)**

**Representative David Etnier** - In December 2000, Representative David Etnier became Maine's Legislative Commissioner to the ASMFC. David comes to the Commission with over eight years of experience with the Maine Legislature and a strong commitment to marine resource management. He is in his fourth term in the Maine House of Representatives and has served as House Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources and as a member of the Appropriations Committee.

All of us at the Commission welcome you, David. And, we look forward to working with you and benefiting from the experiences and knowledge you bring to the table.

**Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission**  
1444 Eye Street, N.W., 6th Floor  
Washington D.C. 20005

*Return Service Requested*